

Brooks raises money for murder victims' families

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks community has contributed hundreds of dollars for surviving family members of two Brooks employees who were murdered at their San Antonio home Feb.27.

A memorial fund has been set up at Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union for Selrico Services, Inc., employees Maria De Jesus Martinez, 37, and her 19-year-old son Joshua Barrera.

"We're going to leave the memorial account open until we determine what family members will receive the money," said Raymond Medina, Selrico Services project manager who was the homicide victims' supervisor.

The victims' co-worker, Marylou Rodriguez, set up the Maria Martinez Memorial Fund after learning of their death.

The San Antonio Police Department has arrested a 16-year-old suspect in connection with the murders, but no charges have yet been filed in the case, Medina said.

Martinez and her son died from multiple gunshots following what police report was an argument over a car.

"She was a nice lady," said Medina, explaining that Martinez had worked in custodial services.

See Homicide, Page 3



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Ejection seat procedures

Second Lt. Dan Wolfe, an engineer at the 311th Human Systems Program Office, explains how an ejection seat works to students during the recent Aerospace Career Day at Brooks.

More than 600 students from local high schools throughout San Antonio and surrounding counties attended the annual event, which showcased medical and scientific research work performed at Brooks. See story, Page 13.

Air Force implements Stop Loss

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON - The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Manpower & Reserve Affairs) has authorized the use of Stop Loss in order to retain specific skills needed to meet national security objectives. Effective May 2, 2003, 43 officer and 56 enlisted specialties are Stop Loss.

"We do not take this action lightly," said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche.

"Stop Loss is designed to preserve critical skills essential to supporting the Global War on Terrorism, while ensuring we're prepared to meet other contingencies."

"We've implemented Stop Loss to ensure we have the necessary skilled personnel to conduct operations," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper. "We'll use it only as long as necessary to accomplish our mission."

Stop Loss is being implemented across the total force (active duty, Air Force Ready Reserve, and Air National Guard) for the selected career fields and affects all airmen in the rank of colonel and below, according

"We understand the individual sacrifices that our airmen and their families will be making," Jumper said. "We appreciate their unwavering support and dedication to our nation."

Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

to Maj. Teresa Forest, chief of Air Force retirements and separation policy at the Pentagon.

Both the secretary and chief of staff are acutely aware that the Air Force is an all-volunteer force and that this action, while essential to meeting the service's worldwide obligations, is inconsistent with the fundamental principles of voluntary service.

"We take Stop Loss seriously and are working hard to ensure the lives of our airmen, their families and their civilian employers are not disrupted any longer than is necessary to meet our national commitments," Jumper said.

Therefore, a waiver process will be implemented for those people with unique circumstances.

"We are doing our best to minimize this disruption," Roche said. "And we will look at unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis and do all we can to offer appropriate relief."

"We understand the individual sacrifices that our airmen and their families will be making," Jumper said. "We appreciate their unwavering support and dedication to our nation."

For more information about Stop Loss, members can contact their local military personnel flight or the Air Force Personnel Center's Stop Loss Control Center by calling 210-565-2374 or DSN 665-2374. Additional information is also available on the Web site at: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil.

For a complete list of affected career fields see Stop Loss, page 10.

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DISCOVERY

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Media coverage of military: the good, the bad and the ugly

By Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military is the best-trained, best-led and best-equipped force in the world, a senior defense official said today, and the American taxpayers deserve to see “just how professional that force is.”

Bryan Whitman, deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, said in a C-SPAN interview this week that he believes reporters should be allowed extensive access to military operations because they’ll cover what he likes to call “the good, the bad and the ugly.”

“They’ll see the goodness with which our troops carry out their missions. Our troops are human though, too, and they’ll make mistakes, and I believe that reporters will cover the bad as it occurs,” Whitman said.

“And I think reporters will also cover the ugly because war is ugly, and the world should see that war is ugly (and know) we don’t make these decisions to go to war lightly.”

Defense Department officials estimate hundreds, perhaps thousands, of journalists will cover various aspects of any conflict in Iraq.

More than 500 of those reporters will accompany U.S. military units in a process the Defense Department calls “embedding.”

Reporters are given the opportunity to embed in specific military units before conflict begins. They’ll then travel with those units, maneuver with them, accompany them during operations and be under their protection.

In return for such access, cooperation and protection, the news organizations agree to follow certain “ground rules.”

Whitman said those rules are designed to facilitate cooperation between the media representatives and the military commander on the ground.

The ground rules cover such things as coverage of injuries and deaths, electronic submissions on the battlefield and other issues that could compromise security and endanger lives.

“We have to ensure that our embedded reporters know and understand what is sensitive or sensitive at the time it is being reported,” Whitman explained.

He noted journalists are by and large professional and said he’s not concerned that their presence in units will violate security or endanger the military forces.

“I have not met a journalist that has willingly wanted to compromise a mission. Furthermore, I find it kind of inconceivable that a journalist wanted to compromise a mission that he or she was part of,” Whitman said.

“I just don’t see that they are going to do something like that that would endanger themselves as well as the unit they’re with.”

Eighty percent of the journalists embedded with U.S. military units are from American news outlets, but Whitman added, the remaining 20 percent are from Arab, Asian and European outlets.

Whitman said the Defense Department has made facilitating the media such a priority because, “truth should matter if there’s a conflict.”

“We know that our potential adversary Saddam Hussein is a practiced liar,” he added.

“He uses disinformation all the time. What better way for us to counter some of that disinformation than to have objective reporters out there in the field reporting what’s going on in near-real time so that Saddam Hussein cannot lie about what’s actually occurring.”

Whitman, a former soldier himself, was full of praise for reporters in general. He said he believes it’s a courageous decision to put oneself in harm’s way to report what is happening. He noted many news organizations have sent their potential war correspondents through training, some with the Defense Department, to try to prepare them for the hazards associated with military operations.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Capt. James Allen, director of Aerospace Physiology Training Programs at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, and Lisa Sandberg, a San Antonio Express-News writer, prepare for a rapid decompression in an altitude chamber in Bldg. 160. Sandberg and Express-News photographer Gloria Ferniz, successfully completed altitude chamber training recently at Brooks and are now qualified to fly aboard military aircraft. The two will be embedded with American troops and will soon deploy for their assignments overseas. Their stories and photos will appear in the San Antonio Express-News.

“ He (Saddam) uses disinformation all the time. What better way for us to counter some of that disinformation than to have objective reporters out there in the field reporting what’s going on in near-real time so that Saddam Hussein cannot lie about what’s actually occurring. ”

Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

He said he’s particularly concerned about reporters who aren’t embedded with military units but still want to cover battles from “between the lines,” or between Iraqi forces and coalition forces.

“It’s even more dangerous ... if you’re out there working independently, heading to the sounds of the guns and perhaps traveling with your own personal protection or security that can often be misconstrued as potential enemy contact out there,” he explained.

Whitman also recommended a way for the public to stay abreast of news from and about the U.S. military.

www.DefendAmerica.mil is an official Defense Department site that features ways in which individuals can communicate with troops, stay abreast of operations, read about life in military units in stories written by military journalists, and “get a lot of information that is synthesized from various sources around the world and within our own government on one site,” Whitman said.

“So if you only have one place to visit each day ... and you want to get some news about what’s going on in the world quickly, DefendAmerica.mil will do that for you,” he added.

The **Discovery** is online.

Go to <http://www.brooks.af.mil/HSW/PA/discovery>.



GI Mail provides secure, reliable e-mail link to loved ones

By Cynthia Bauer

Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFPN) — With airmen deployed away from home, the opportunity to communicate with loved ones takes on greater importance.

“To provide a link back home, Air Force Crossroads, the Air Force’s official community Web site, offers a secure and reliable e-mail program through Global Internet Mail to help families keep in touch,” said Capt. Greg Whitaker of the Air Mobility Command Network Operations and Security Center.

“Although there are other nonprofit and commercial e-mail and Internet services available, military members need to understand GI Mail is sponsored and maintained by the Air Force. We can’t verify the operational capability or security of other such services,” he said.

Registration for GI Mail is free for those eligible through the Air Force Crossroads Web site at www.afcrossroads.com. Airmen can log in to the Web-based system from any computer with Internet access. Eligible users include active duty, Reserve, National Guard, retired or civil service employees and their authorized family members.

Whitaker said there are three great reasons to use GI Mail: security, bandwidth and availability.

“You’ve probably heard about the various break-ins and hacker attacks at free commercial e-mail providers,” he said. GI Mail is a Department of Defense system, employing the security we’re accustomed to he said.

Concerning bandwidth, there is no advertising or “spamming” from junk mail distributors on GI Mail, unlike commercial providers.

“Not only will the service remain speedy even in the most remote or forward locations, users will not spend time sifting through mountains of junk mail,” Whitaker said. “And GI Mail is a DoD product provided for morale. Unlike civilian services, the system will get the attention and maintenance that our deployed personnel deserve.”

Besides GI Mail, the Air Force Crossroads Web site also offers forums and online chat rooms, and has online videoconferencing tools under development. Access the Web site and click on “Communications Center” for additional information.

According to officials, families who do not have computers or Internet access can rely on family support centers for help. The FSCs have computers with connections to Internet service providers available for families to use.

Contact Brooks Family Support Center at 536-2444 for more information.

Promotion test change impacts deploying airmen

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Commanders of technical and master sergeants facing short-notice deployments now have greater flexibility as to when their airmen test for promotion.

New overseas manning requirements and the freezing of the air and space expeditionary force cycle prompted officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here to adapt new procedures for deploying airmen.

In the past, the number of airmen receiving deployment orders while in their testing window was small, said Ken Schwartz, chief of the center’s test management section. They were generally required to test before departing, providing they had access to study ma-

terials for at least 60 days.

“This cycle, we gave commanders a little more flexibility to say whether a person should test before or after their deployment,” he said. “It seemed like the right thing to do to keep (promotion) testing in sync with the acceleration of the AEF rhythm.”

Now, noncommissioned officers in the current test window who receive short-notice orders can have their commander delay testing if circumstances warrant, said Schwartz. Those who delay their testing will test out of cycle when they return.

Officials are also considering the merits of applying this change to those testing for staff sergeant May 1 to 31; however, no decision has been made.

For more information, visit the career enhancement office at local military personnel flights or visit the enlisted promotions Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom/.

Homicide

Continued from Page 1

“She worked for us for about a month and a half. Her son had worked for us a week in ground maintenance,” the project manager said.

Selrico has had the custodial and ground maintenance services contract at Brooks City-Base since April 2002. The company employs 45 workers to support contract requirements.

Company employees and Brooks customers are equally shocked by the deaths of two very friendly, hard-working people.

“I didn’t know her son, but I did get to know Maria. She was always cheerful with a smile on her face,” said Dawn Resz, who is an Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis contractor in Bldg. 140.

“She was the last person in the world that I would think this would happen to,” Resz added.

Resz and co-worker Terry Boyd helped raise \$200 for the memorial fund contributed by Brooks employees in Bldgs. 140 and 180.

“She was very bright and liked people,” Resz said, noting that the woman who happily and efficiently cleaned Bldg. 140 did not show outward signs that she was experiencing problems away from work.

In their short time with the company, Martinez and her son fulfilled Selrico’s motto that is prominently displayed on a banner at their Brooks office: “Our people make the difference.”

The victims were buried at San Jose Memorial Park March 4.

Martinez is survived by her parents, Simon and Guadalupe Martinez of San Antonio. Her son is survived by his father Emiliano Barrera.



We SALUTE you!



Service Members of the Year Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2002



Airman (Base-level)
Senior Airman Michael Chacon
68th Information Operations



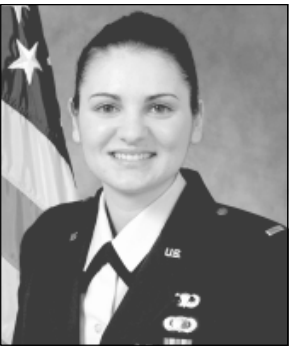
Senior NCO (Base-level)
Master Sgt. Carl Keenan
68th IOS



Honor Guard
Capt. Phillip Kemp
311th Human Systems Wing



NCO
Staff Sgt. Sally Perez
AFIERA



Company Grade Officer
1st Lt. Joann Kenneally
311th Human Systms Program Office



Airman (Wing-level)
Staff Sgt. Nyaunuwi Wilson
Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety
and Occupational Health Risk Anaylsis



Senior NCO (Wing-level)
Master Sgt. Jerry Gibson
311th Communications Squadron



Additional Duty First Sergeant (Base-level)
Master Sgt. Mary Scott
Air Force Medical Support Agency



Additional Duty First Sergeant (Wing-level)
Master Sgt. Daniel Radke
311th Security Forces Squadron

Civilians of the Year Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2002



Category I Student Aide
Jessica Delgado
AFIERA/SD



Category II GS3-5
Ana Trevino
311th MDS/SGD



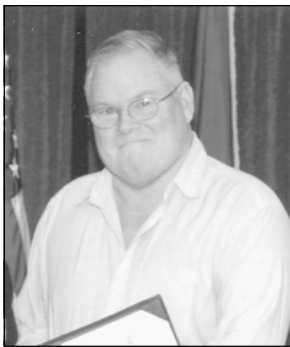
Category III GS6-8
Myrna Marshall
USAFSAM



Category IV GS9-11
Bernardo Delgado
AFIERA/SDE



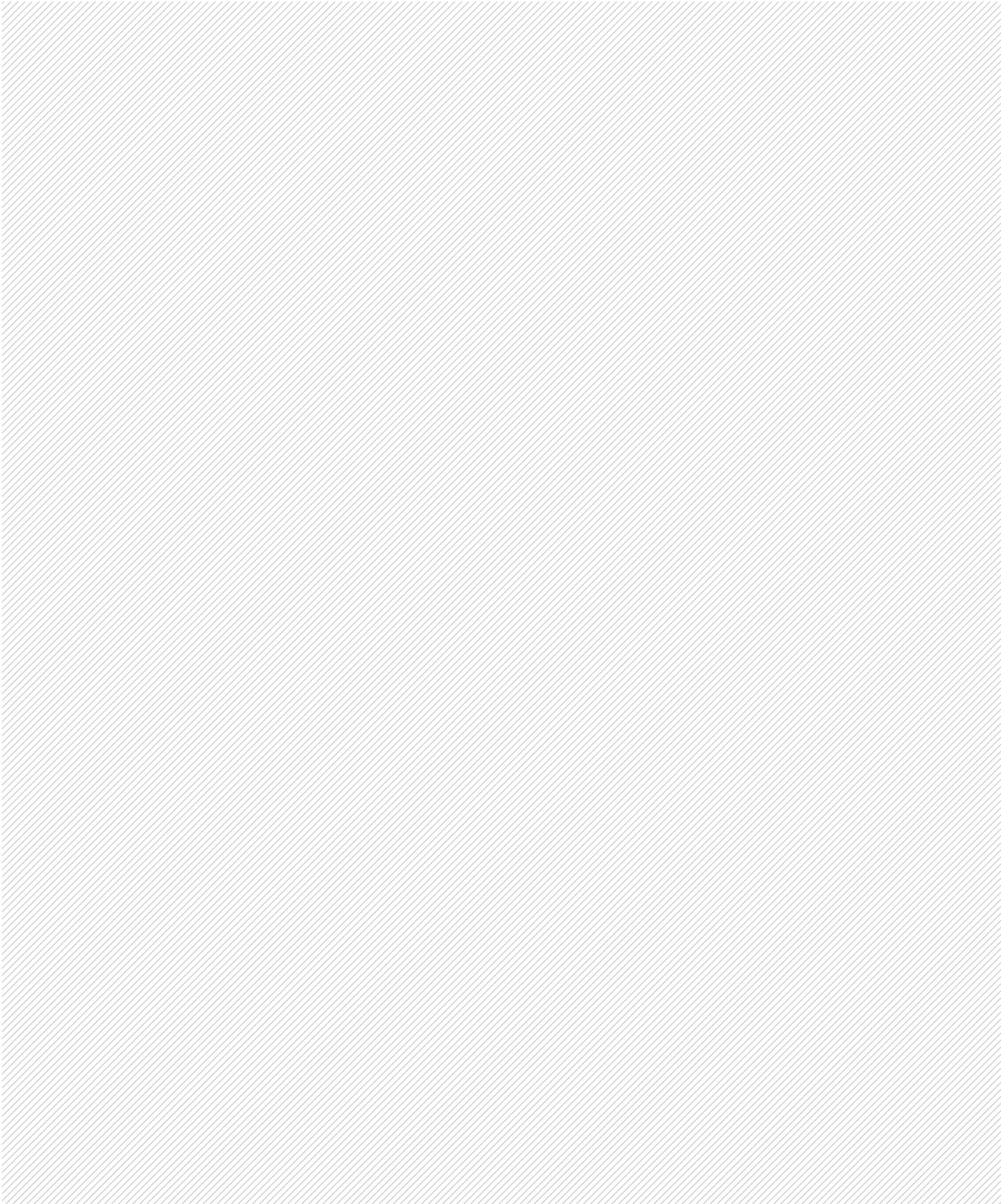
Category V GS12-13
Sherol Courtois
311th HSW/PKR



Category VI WG/WL/WS
Robert Wilkes
311th CS/SCMP



Category VII NAF
Ricardo Hernandez
311thMSG/SVRMC





SPO invention to provide better medical care for DoD

By Rita Boland
Staff Writer

The U.S. military has a better way to transport personnel and dependents to needed medical care.

Twenty-five new patient support pallets, developed by the 311th Human Systems Program Office, arrived at locations in the U.S. Pacific Command, the U.S. European Command and the continental U. S. between Feb. 14-March 4. Block 1 PSPs, produced by the vendor ARINC, transform cargo aircraft like the C-17 and the KC-135 into patient evacuation planes.

Deputy Program Manager 2nd Lt. Stephen Kalinowsky, from the 311th SPO, said the C-17 and KC-135 are quieter than the C-9 aircraft previously used and the new PSP will deliver better patient care in the air.

“PACOM is currently using the PSPs, and EUCOM will be using them shortly,” Kalinowsky said.

Patients needing any type of care ranging from psychiatric to surgical who can’t receive the necessary treatment in their service area, can take advantage of the new development.

The Block 1 PSP began as the Block 0 prototype, also made by ARINC. Various aeromedical evacuation squadrons, like the 349th AES at Travis, Air Force Base, Calif., flew the Block 0 on training missions and the aeromedical evacuation crew members and



Courtesy photo

Mary Ann Ralston prepares to load one of 25 redesigned patient support pallets being shipped around the world in support of deployment operations.

boom operators provided feedback and suggestions. Program Manager Maj. Brian Collins, of the 311th SPO, compiled the data and ideas for improvement. He then presented the information to ARINC to develop the Block 1.

The contract to develop the Block 1 PSP was signed in September 2002.

According to Kalinowsky, part of the impetus for the new PSP resulted from a lack of timely patient care in the past. According to Kalinowsky, it wasn’t uncommon for patients to be moved four-and-a-half hours after the schedule time of evacuation. With the new PSP, developers and medical personnel can provide more punctual care.

“The PSP facilitates patients getting the punctual medical care they deserve,” Kalinowsky said.

Brooks family members provide ‘Afghan relief’ to comfort American troops

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Two Brooks family members added further credence to the Biblical message that “it’s more blessed to give than receive” when they spearheaded their version of “Afghan relief” to provide aide and comfort to American service men and women stationed in Afghanistan.

Laura and Stephanie Rowley, daughters of 311th Communications Squadron’s Tech. Sgt. Richard Rowley and his wife Juanita, collected donated items that have since been shipped to deployed American troops. Among the gifts from home are foam mattresses and even a “Lord of the Rings” DVD.

“We have never done anything like this before, collecting things for deployed troops,” said Juanita Rowley. However, the Rowleys have for years maintained a family tradition of service to others. “As a family, we try to do a service project once a month,” Mrs. Rowley said, explaining that community service is part of their deep commitment to their faith as members of the Church of Jesus Christ - Latter Day Saints.

The Rowley daughters knew nothing about an Air Force-wide e-mail message requesting donations until their father brought the list of approved items home.

“I printed the list, figuring that we had

some of the things at home. I left the list on the back of our couch where Laura found it,” said Rowley, a computer technician who until his recent retirement served as the 311thCS’s assistant program manager.

Laura, 18, immediately saw an opportunity to fulfill one of her church group’s service projects. She also enlisted the aid of her 20-year-old sister, Stephanie, who solicited contributions from her single adults church group.

“I made a list of stores in the area and asked them for donations, such as batteries, phone cards and egg crate foam mattresses. However, the stores weren’t cooperating. Then I asked them if I could hand out the (Air Force) list to customers,” Laura related, saying that the businesses she contacted turned down all of her requests.

Initial rejection did not stop the determined young ladies. They distributed the list to friends, family and their extended church family. The response the sisters received was so large that donations filled a mini-van.

“We received a bunch of crossword puzzle books, popcorn and toiletry items,” Laura said, noting that an elderly woman donated the most unusual, but practical gift. “She sent us bandages,” Laura said smiling, thinking the lady to be a modern version of nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale.

The sisters feel they have been blessed by their support of Air Force members serving overseas. “You learn there is a (personally rewarding) benefit in helping others,” said Stephanie, whose remarks were echoed by Laura who said, “If I could do this every day, I’d do it.”



ACTION LINE

536-2222



The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

Col. Tom Travis
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

| | |
|--|----------|
| 311th Security Forces Squadron..... | 536-2851 |
| SFS after duty hours..... | 536-2851 |
| 311th Civil Engineer Squadron..... | 536-3861 |
| 311th Communications Squadron..... | 536-6571 |
| 311th Mission Support Group Logistics Division..... | 536-3541 |
| Safety..... | 536-2111 |
| Housing Maintenance..... | 533-4100 |
| Housing Office..... | 536-1840 |
| 311th Services Division..... | 536-2545 |
| 311th Medical Squadron (Clinic)..... | 536-4715 |
| Military Personnel..... | 536-1845 |
| Civilian Personnel..... | 536-3353 |
| Military Pay..... | 536-5778 |
| Civilian Pay..... | 536-8370 |
| I.G. (FWA)..... | 536-2358 |
| Military Equal Opportunity..... | 536-2584 |
| EEO Complaints..... | 536-3702 |
| BX Market..... | 533-9079 |
| Brooks Development Office..... | 536-3372 |
| Brooks City-Base Marketing and Development Office..... | 536-5366 |



Brooks Family Support Center activities

Call 536-2444
for information

Moving with kids

March 17, 10-11:30 a.m., Bldg. 537—

Your move can be a good one for the whole family. Children of different ages react differently to a move. Learn what to tell your children and how to get them involved.

Marketing for a second career

March 31, 8 a.m.-noon, Bldg. 537—

The seminar is recommended for military members within one or two years of separation or retirement. Military spouses and DoD civilians are also invited. Topics include civilian job market competition, perceptions employers have of military personnel, job search plans, resume strengthening, networking, preparing for success-

ful interviews, salary negotiations and benefits packages. Retired Col. Dick Crampton, deputy director, Officer Placement Service, The Military Officers Association of America, is the guest speaker. Participants receive a copy of the "Marketing Yourself for a Second Career."

Consumer credit counseling

Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Bldg. 537—

Have you fallen deep into debt? Is it tough making payments? Are you near your credit limit and considering loans or bankruptcy? You can get out of debt with a debt management plan. Call the Family Support Center to schedule an appointment with a consumer credit counselor.

Heartlink, military spouse orientation program

March 19, 8 a.m.-noon, Bldg. 537—

The program is designed for spouses of military members married less than five years, but all military spouses are welcome to attend. Learn about you and the Air Force and where you fit in, information on protocol, customs and rank structure, military benefits and support agencies and tools for communicating within the Air Force. A spouses handbook and lunch will be provided. Childcare may be provided, subject to availability. Contact Tech. Sgt. Austin Peoples in the Family Support Center at 536-2444 for more information or to register.





311th HSW Commander’s Award presented to last monthly winners and second annual recipient

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Three base organizations became footnotes to base awards history recently when the 311th Human Systems Wing commander presented the Commander’s Award to the final monthly winners while also honoring the annual recipient of the base’s highest honor.

The Brooks Health and Fitness Center Integration Team and the 311th Medical Squadron’s Medical Logistics shared the commander’s trophy as the last monthly award winners.

This award recognition program has been changed to a quarterly format.

The 311th Mission Support Group’s Civilian Personnel Division is the annual recipient of the award for 2002.

Former 311th HSW Commander Brig. Gen. Lloyd Dodd created the annual award format in 2001 when the 311th Human Systems Program Office’s TRAC2ES team became the first annual award recipient.

Previously, only past monthly winners have been eligible to compete in the annual award program.

Beginning this year, quarterly winners will compete for the annual honor.

Since its inception in 1995, the Commander’s Award has been presented to 80 recipients.

Founded by former 311th Human Systems Center Commander Brig. Gen. Robert Belihar, the Commander’s Trophy has been awarded to 50 organizations, 30 individuals and has been shared by a combination of organizations and individuals a total of 13 times.

The final monthly recipients earned the honor for their contributions to efficient cost-effective service and mission readiness. The 15-member integration team coordinated and implemented the October 2002 merger of the Health and Wellness Center and Fitness Center. Their support of this action led to enhanced health performance and personnel readiness.

The 311th MDS Medical Logistics effectively managed various projects involving supplies and equipment, totaling in the millions of dollars, which helped numerous customers fulfill mission requirements.

The annual award recipient won the monthly Commander’s Award in August 2002 primarily for their extraordinary efforts involving the Fiscal 2002 Reduction-In-Force that resulted in only three out of 101 affected employees being involuntarily separated.

Spirit Award makes Brooks folks do the darndest things

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

It’s more than New Year’s Eve and the 4th of July rolled into one big party when Brooks organizations battle for a prize so valued that they’ll do just about anything to win it, including jumping into a vat of green Jell-O while playing the Notre Dame fight song on the kazoo.

While no one has yet taken a swan dive into a large glutinous dessert, many folks here have done some odd things to capture the coveted Brooks Spirit Award.

Take for instance the time when a BDU-attired lieutenant colonel demonstrated his team’s soaring spirit by romping around the Brooks Club while manipulating a traditional purple Chinese dragon used in Asian New Year’s celebrations.

“It’s almost like a college football game atmosphere,” admits Chief Master Sgt. Richard Hollins, 311th Human Systems Wing command chief, and a past participant in the Spirit Award competition.

The Spirit Award was created in January 1999 by former 311th HSW Command Chief Darlin “Big E” Evans to increase esprit de corps and unit pride during quarterly award ceremonies. Since then, the competition has taken on a life of its own.

Noisemakers, bells, whistles, drums and just about any object that can project a loud, get-your-attention sound are overly used during “impromptu” displays of organizational spirit. Says Hollins, “The goal is to have fun and display esprit de corps.”



Photo by Rudy Purificato

This display of spirit using a traditional purple Chinese dragon is representative of the antics at Brooks spirit award competition.

So far, no Brooks team has gone too far in their zeal, but they have come close to the decibel threshold. They have also demonstrated novel ways to display their spirit, including the most recent example that earned the 311th Human Systems Program Office the annual Spirit Award during the annual awards banquet Feb. 12.

“YA, led by Col. (AI) Burnett surprised the crowd by demonstrating some high tech aircrew life support gear,” recalls Hollins in describing a sort of military “fashion show.” SPO spirit impressed an overwhelming number of judges that consisted of Colonels Cowles, Bowley and Travis, Mrs. Lloyd Dodd and Hollins.

Hollins said organizations compete for the Spirit Award quarterly, however, winners share the trophy on a rotating basis. Advancing to the championship round for the annual award is not limited to the quarterly Spirit Award winners, said Hollins. “We like fair play. Every organization gets to compete. Winner takes all.” The annual Spirit Award winner keeps the trophy, he said, along with their “high-octane spirit.”



Brooks adopts new method for reporting repair needs

By Rita Boland
Staff Writer

Brooks personnel have a new procedure for requesting routine repairs on Air Force buildings.

People who have repair needs to report should contact the facility manager for their building and request that a repair order be submitted. Use of the facility manager prevents a duplication of work requests.

“If you have 100 people in a building you’re likely to have 100 duplicate orders,” said John Berry, the work center manager for Grubb & Ellis Management Services Inc.

In case of an emergency, Brooks personnel should call 536-WORK (536-9675) to report the problem. A work order will be generated and repairs should be made in three to six days, based on parts and availability. According to Grubb & Ellis, the old phone numbers, 536-1856 and 536-2052, will remain in service for a couple of months.

Grubb & Ellis took over the facility manager list. They have updated the current list and are inputting the information into the Hansen computer system to track and docu-

ment facility work. Any changes to the facility managers list of primary and alternates can be emailed to manuel.villarreal@brookscity-base.com or kel.capps@brookscitybase.com

“Anybody could call in an emergency, but the facility manager would give us a contact point,” Berry said.

When Brooks made the transition from an Air Force base to a city-base, Grubb & Ellis took over the maintenance of Brooks buildings.

“We came in with a workload of about 700 (requests),” Berry said. “Now we have an open work number of 265.”

A Web site is under developement also, to allow personnel to submit requests or check the status of a work order on-line. According the Berry, the Web site will be functional in about at month.

“It gives you direct access to the information you’re looking for,” he said.

Anything outside normal repair and maintenance needs still requires an Air Force Form 332 form. Base housing residents should call the housing manager with repair needs.

Brooks City-Base hosts first Community Job Fair

By Rita Boland
Staff Writer

Brooks City-Base hosts its first community job fair April 11 from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Historic Hangar 9 at 8081 Inner Circle Road.

Individuals seeking employment now or gathering information for future career decisions are encouraged to attend. Active duty and retired military, civil service and contractors and the public can all participate in the job fair.

“Brooks City-Base is reaching out to the community and we are supporting the interests of our neighbors,” said Ed Baker of the Brooks Family Support Center and one of the Brooks’ coordinators of the event.

More than 30 prospective employers from the South Side and throughout San Antonio plan to participate in the event.

Event planners also invite businesses interested in looking at the research and educational facilities available at Brooks to partake in the event.

“This is a unique opportunity to show off the City-Base potential for businesses that may be looking at City-Base,” said Yolanda Rodriguez, marketing director for Grubb and Ellis Management Services, Inc.

“We encourage the business community to participate and visit with us.”

Anyone who would like more information can contact the Brooks Family Support Center at 536-2444 or 1-877-747-5935.



Stop Loss

Continued from Page 1

Stop Loss will be implemented on the following AFSCs beginning May 2, 2003:

— **OFFICER** (applies to PAFSC regardless of prefix/suffix except where indicated):

- 11AX Airlift Pilot
- 11BX Bomber Pilot
- 11EX Test Pilot
- 11FX Fighter Pilot
- 11GX Generalist Pilot
- 11HX Helicopter Pilot
- 11KX Trainer Pilot
- 11RX Recce/Surv/Elect Warfare Pilot
- 11SX Special Operations Pilot
- 11TX Tanker, C-12 CTP Pilot
- 12AX Airlift Navigator
- 12BX Bomber Navigator
- 12EX Text Navigator
- 12FX Fighter Navigator
- 12GX Generalist Navigator
- 12KX Trainer Navigator
- 12RX Recce/Surv/Elect Warfare Navigator
- 12SX Special Operations Navigator
- 12TX Tanker Navigator
- 13BX Air Battle Manager
- 13DXA Combat Rescue
- 13DXB Special Tactics
- 13MX Airfield Operations
- 14NX Intelligence
- 31PX Security Forces
- 32EX Civil Engineer
- 43EX Bioenvironmental Engineer
- 43HX Public Health
- 43TX Biomedical Laboratory
- 44EX Emergency Services Physician
- 44MX Internist
- 45AX Anesthesiologist
- 45BX Orthopedic Surgeon
- 45SX Surgeon
- 46FX Flight Nurse
- 46MX Nurse Anesthetist
- 46NXE Critical Care Nurse
- 46SX Operating Room Nurse
- 48AX Aerospace Medicine Specialist
- 48GX General Medical Officer
- 48RX Residency Trained Flight Surgeon
- 51JX Judge Advocate
- 71SX Special Investigator

— **ENLISTED** (applies to PAFSC regardless of prefix/suffix except where indicated):

- 1A0XX In-flight Refueling
- 1A1XX Flight Engineer
- 1A2XX Loadmaster

- 1A3XX Airborne Communications & Electronics Systems
- 1A4XX Airborne Battle Management
- 1A5XX Airborne Mission Systems
- 1A7XX Aerial Gunner
- 1A8XX Airborne Cryptologic Linguist
- 1C0X1 Airfield Management
- 1C1XX Air Traffic Control
- 1C2XX Combat Control
- 1C3XX Command Post
- 1C4XX Tactical Air Command and Control
- 1C5XX Aerospace Control and Warning System
- 1N0XX Intelligence Applications
- 1N1XX Imagery Analysis
- 1N200 Signals Intelligence Analysis Manager
- X1N2XX Aircrew Signals Intelligence Production
- 1N3X4 Far East Cryptologic Linguist
- 1N3X5 Mid-East Cryptologic Linguist
- 1N3X6* African Cryptologic Linguist
- 1N3X7* Turkic Cryptologic Linguist
- 1N3X8* Polynesian Cryptologic Linguist
- 1N3X9* Indo-Iranian Cryptologic Linguist
- 1N4XX Signals Intelligence Analysis
- 1N5XX Electronic Signals Intelligence Exploitation
- 1N6XX Electronic System Security Assessment
- 1S0XX Safety
- 1T1XX Aircrew Life Support
- 1T2XX Pararescue
- 2E2X1 Com, Network, Switching and Crypto Systems
- 2F0X1 Fuels
- 2T3X2A Special Vehicle Maintenance (Fire trucks)
- 2T3X2B Special Vehicle Maintenance (Refueling)
- 3C0X1 Communications - Computer Systems Operations
- 3C2X1 Communications - Computer Systems Control
- 3E000 Electrical (CEM)
- 3E0X2 Electrical Power Production
- 3E4X1 Utilities Systems
- 3E4X2 Liquid Fuels Systems Maintenance
- 3E5X1 Engineering
- 3E7X1 Fire Protection
- 3E8X1 Explosive Ordnance Disposal
- 3E9X1 Readiness
- 3H0X1 Historian
- 3N0XX Public Affaris & Radio/TV Broadcast
- 3P0XX Security Forces
- 4A1XX Medical Material
- 4A2XX Biomedical Equipment
- 4B0XX Bioenvironmental Engineering
- 4E0XX Public Health
- 4H0XX Cardiopulmonary Laboratory
- 5J01X Paralegal
- 7S0X1 Special Investigations
- 8D000 Linguist Debriefing
- 9L000 Interpreter/Translator
- *APR 03 Conversions



Midweek mass

Midweek mass at the Brooks Chapel is held Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Mass is held each First Friday of the month and on holy days of obligation. Mass is open for the entire base Roman Catholic community.

Lifebuilder's series

The Lifebuilder's Lunchtime Series continues Wednesdays at noon at the Chapel Annex. Contact the Chapel staff for more information.

Chapel schedule

Weekdays:

11:30 a.m. — Mass or Eucharistic service

Wednesdays:

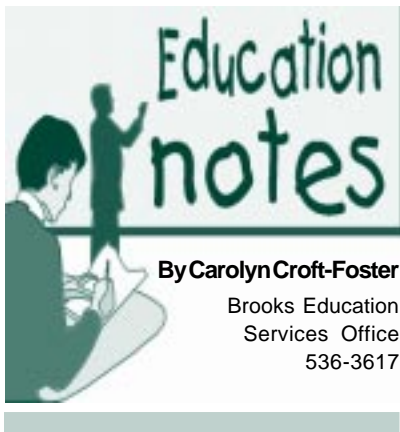
12 p.m. — Lifebuilders luncheon
6 p.m. — Catholic choir rehearsal

Thursdays:

7:30 p.m. Protestant choir rehearsal

Sundays:

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass
10:30 a.m. — Catholic religious education
9 a.m. — Protestant Sunday School, ages 3-adult
10:30 a.m. — Protestant Worship, includes children's church



ROTC Briefing —

The ROTC Detachment from Southwest Texas State University will visit Brooks March 26 at 12:15 p.m. to present various scholarship programs available to active duty airmen. These programs are two-four years in length and lead to an Air Force commission. All airmen are invited to attend. For more information, call 536-3618.

Six CLEP exams retired

The College Board is retiring six CLEP subject paper-based tests in June. The exams are: General Humanities, General Biology, General Chemistry, German, and Western Civilization I and II. Anyone wishing to take one of these exams must take it prior to June 30. The following exams will be retired Nov. 30: General English, General Mathematics, Accounting, American History I and II, and Spanish. Call the Education Center for more information or to reserve a seat.

Air Force virtual education center

The Virtual Education Center is on-line. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and the Community College of the Air Force. CCAF students can

also order CCAF transcripts from the site. To access the AFVEC go to the following Web site and establish an account at: <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>. For more information call the Brooks Education Center at 536-3617.

Maymester On-Base

Registration is underway for the Maymester On-Base. This is a three-week semester for one class. The semester begins May 12 and ends June 1. On-Base classes include: Computer Literacy, American Government, Humanities, Introduction to Psychology and Speech. Call the Education Center for more information or to schedule an appointment with the Palo Alto representative.

Discover program online

The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. The program can be used by military members, civilians and family members. Call 536-3617 to schedule an appointment to review the Web site and get started.

Changes for OTS/ ROTC application

All non-technical boards are suspended until October 2003. Officer training school continues to accept applications for pilot, navigator and technical career fields. All non-technical selects' class assignments are on hold until August 2003. Potential applicants who met with a guidance counselor should schedule follow-up appointments to see how the changes affect their packages. OTS is still accepting applications for Air Battle Managers and Space and Missile Systems. Call 536-3617 for details or to schedule an appointment with a counselor.



Feature



Nickelberry

Q&A

FULL NAME:

Catherine Dorrine Nickelberry, GS-13

DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:

Supervisory Human Resources Specialist,
311th Mission Support Group,
Civilian Personnel Division

WHAT IS MY JOB?:

As chief of the Affirmative Employment Section I'm responsible for oversight of staffing, recruitment, and equal employment management advisory services for civil service positions at Brooks.

BIRTHDAY:

May 6, 1949

HOMETOWN:

Brinkley, Arkansas

FAMILY STATUS:

I'm married to Nick, a retired Air Force chief master sergeant.; two children, Mark, a staff sergeant at Yokota Air Base, Japan, (currently deployed to Kuwait) and Sharon, a captain at Kadena AB, Japan.; one granddaughter.

MOTTO:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, he shall direct your path.

INSPIRATIONS:

God and family

HOBBIES:

Reading, singing with my five sisters and the church choir, listening to music, and walking.

PET PEEVE:

When we don't earnestly listen to the opinion of others.

BOOK(S) AT BEDSIDE:

New Testament Bible, Daily Wisdom for Couples, A Gentle Spirit- Daily Wisdom for Women and Cooking Light Magazine

I JOINED CIVIL SERVICE BECAUSE:

I wanted to take advantage of the employment opportunities wherever my husband was stationed. Also, it offered me challenging and unique opportunities to work with people and experience the customs of different countries.

FIVE-YEAR GOAL:

to retire, pursue my singing career with my sisters and release our album, learn to sight-read music and play the piano.

ULTIMATE GOAL:

grow spiritually, pursue additional educational opportunities and travel.

IF I WON THE LOTTERY I'D:

If it were a substantial amount I'd quit my job, pay off all my bills, indulge myself and family, invest and donate to my church and charity.

MY FAVORITE MUSIC:

Gospel, spiritual and easy listening.

MY GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:

is 34 years of marriage, two great children and a successful career.

MY MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:

family and faith



Still waters run deep



Photo by Senior Airman Brandy Bogart

By Rita Boland

Staff writer

Catherine Nickelberry is a soft spoken and reserved woman who proceeds cautiously, careful to put her best foot forward. However, underneath her reserved demeanor lies a woman with a big heart and an even bigger family.

The second oldest of nine siblings, Nickelberry grew up with five sisters and three brothers on a small farm in rural Arkansas.

"There was always plenty of love, laughter, arguments and chores to go around," Nickelberry said. "My parents instilled a very strong religious and work ethic in all of us."

Growing up in a large family taught her compromise and patience and also gave her strength, faith, and a love for music.

Four of the sisters began singing as a quartet at a very early age.

"When one sister graduated and left home another would join the quartet to take her place," Nickelberry said. She credits their mother with realizing their hidden talent, as she encouraged and taught them three-part harmony. They grew up singing in churches, their school and college choirs, conventions and various other places all over the state of Arkansas.

Two years ago, all six sisters decided to reunite and work on their first album, which they hope to release this year.

"It has been difficult to finish because we're all separated, since one sister lives in Cleveland, another in Las Vegas, three are in Little Rock and I'm here in San Antonio, Nickelberry said.

"We all have families and careers so it's been difficult to get together to

complete this project. We try to perform together whenever we can. The group is known for their spiritual 'acappella' music."

Nickelberry smiles as she talks about her "Air Force military family".

"Family is very important to me," Nickelberry said.

Her husband retired after 25 years of active duty service and both of their children serve in the Air Force.

"My son was born at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., and my daughter at Landstuhl, Germany. Now that's diversity," Nickelberry said.

Despite some difficult situations and the need for some quick adjustments, Nickelberry enjoyed being part of the military family.

"We had the chance to experience other cultures and customs and make wonderful friends," she said.

Nickelberry enjoyed all their duty assignments and the opportunities they afforded her and her family.

When questioned whether she or her husband had any influence in their children's decision to join the Air Force, Nickelberry said that her husband's career most certainly influenced them.

"Since my daughter's career field is personnel, perhaps I may have influenced her a bit too," she said.

Nickelberry tries not to worry about her kids and what might happen next, especially with the current situation.

"I worry for their safety especially knowing that we may be facing a war in a few weeks. We don't get a chance to see them very often, maybe once, sometimes twice a year," she said.

Despite her fears, Nickelberry focuses on her faith, family and her job and tries to continue life as usual. Her children's duty assignments have given her and her

husband the opportunity to visit Japan and England.

"I'm very proud of my children, their accomplishments and their service to their country," Nickelberry said.

Nickelberry began her career at Sembach Air Base, Germany as a GS-2, personnel clerk. "I remember being scared to death since I was the only American in the office working with the local nationals," she said. "But I soon learned that these people were very friendly and helpful and welcomed us into their homes.

Nickelberry never looked back after that first job. She has worked 27 years for the federal government, all in the personnel field.

"I was blessed to be able to continue my employment wherever we happened to be stationed," Nickelberry said. "The military spouse preference program available to spouses today was not an option during most of our moves," she said.

Nickelberry enjoys her work as the manager of the Affirmative Employment Section in the Civilian Personnel Division. She describes her job as rewarding, yet frustrating and demanding all at the same time. "What has changed dramatically in the personnel world is the method by which we do business now. Technology is constantly changing as are the traditional personnel processes that we've gotten use to over the years," she said.

Though Nickelberry plans to retire soon, she won't stop working. She plans to spend the extra time pursuing some life-long goals. One thing's for sure, she'll always put on her best face and always have family, and music, to rely on.

Rita.Boland@brooks.af.mil



AEROSPACE CAREER DAY 2003



Photos by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Each year the chemistry magic show is ranked among the favorite events for Aerospace Career Day participants. This is the fifth year that local students have had the opportunity to explore various aerospace medicine programs at Brooks.



Amy Ross, a NASA space suit engineer, explains the challenges of designing space suits to withstand cosmic debris during space walks.

Aerospace Career Day makes a difference

By Rita Boland
Staff Writer

Ice and rescheduling didn't freeze the spirits of about 600 students and teachers who attended Aerospace Career Day at Brooks Feb. 26-27.

The two-day event, shortened by one day because of a winter storm that closed schools and businesses, exposed students to a variety of careers available in the math and science fields, while giving students a better understanding of the military.

"We've got several (students) going into the military," said Charlotte Kneupper, a teacher escorting the group from Comfort High School. "Maybe this reaffirms their decision. Maybe it helps those who are undecided."

Comfort was one of several high schools who attended the event last year and wanted to return, despite having to reschedule their Tuesday visit for Thursday.

"We came last year and it was so educational," Kneupper said. "This is something our kids, be-

ing from a rural area and school, need to be exposed to."

Despite temperatures in the 40s for much of Wednesday morning, the students were excited and engaging.

"They're out of school," Kneupper said, laughing.

Students learned about science fields including forensic toxicology and radiology and medical jobs like flight surgeon and flight nurse.

Kneupper said learning about flight medicine informed her students interested in medical careers of new options.

Almost every student agreed, however, that the best demonstration by far was the chemistry magic show. "I learned more from the chemistry show than I learned in chemistry class," said Ashley Weger, a student from La Vernia High School.

One of Weger's classmates, Eryn Lassiter, has personal ties to Brooks. Her mother works in the contracting office on Brooks.

"I've been out here before," Lassiter said. "I learned new things from the chemistry show."

Aerospace Career Day came

equipped with Air Force recruiters who answered questions and encouraged several students to consider a military career.

"We were talking about (joining)," said Brenda Goldman, another La Vernia student. "I like the atmosphere and stuff."

Some of the La Vernia students said they were concerned that after the cancellation of Tuesday's events, which they originally planned to attend, they wouldn't be able to participate in career day, but the counselors made arrangements for the school to attend Thursday.

"Our counselors did the whole thing," said Lois Bigler, a math teacher who chaperoned the La Vernia students. "It was no problem for the kids."

The presentations and demonstrations made a lasting impression on teachers and students.

"More than anything it gives the students dreams," Bigler said. "It gives them goals. They see what smart people do. It's an enrichment for them."

Rita.Boland@brooks.af.mil



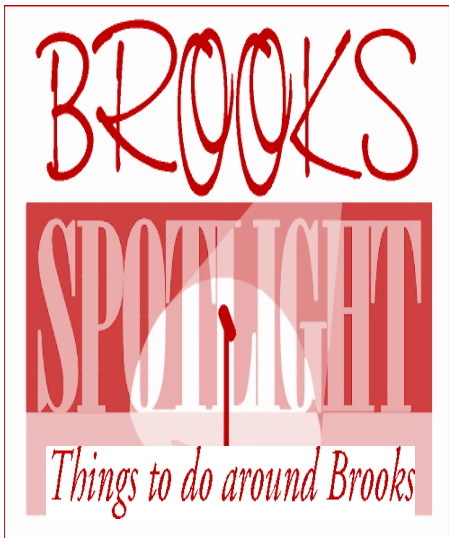
Master Sgt. David Yandon, assigned to the 311th Human Systems Program Office, explains the Joint Chemical Assessment Device to students from the Alamo City Christian Academy during Aerospace Career Day 2003.



Airman 1st Class Dawn Fojtik, of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, demonstrates the effects of spatial disorientation in the Barany Chair using a student participant from a local high school.

“More than anything it gives the students dreams. It gives them goals. They see what smart people do. It's an enrichment for them.”

Lois Bigler
Math teacher and
Aerospace Career Day
chaperone



By Jan McMahon
Brooks Services Marketing Office
536-5475

Youth Center

Bldg. 470, 536-2515

Registration is underway for the 2003 Brooks youth baseball teams. Registration will continue until teams in all age groups are formed. The age groups are; 5-6 years, developmental team; 7-8 years; 9-10 years; 11-12 years; 13-14 years and 15-17 years. Brooks youth will participate in a league with Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases and Fort Sam Houston. Non-DoD personnel will be accepted on a space available basis. Registration is on a first come first serve basis. For more details contact Youth Sports Director Larry Flores.

Spring Break Day Camp is scheduled for March 17-21 from 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. A variety of activities will be offered daily. Campers are served breakfast, lunch and snacks. Fees are based on a sliding pay scale.

One-day camps are also scheduled for March 28, April 18, 21 and 25 at the Youth Center from 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact the staff for more details.

With summer just around the corner it's not too early to make plans for your child for the summer months. The Youth Center Summer Day

Camp allows parents to work without worry while their children are being cared for. Active-duty personnel may register their children April 1-18. NAF and DoD civilians, contractors and other personnel can register from April 21 until the program is filled. Field trips, movies, arts and crafts, cooking, gardening, swimming, including lessons, and guest speakers from the local community are a few of the items on the agenda for children attending camp. Fees are based on a sliding pay scale. Campers are served breakfast, lunch and snacks.

Fitness Center

Bldg. 940, 536-2188

The 2003 Varsity Sports Benefit Golf Tournament is scheduled for today, with an 11:30 a.m. sign-in and a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$25 per person and includes cart, green fees and lunch. Mulligans are \$1 each, maximum eight per team.

A Men's Softball Tournament battle is scheduled for March 22 and 23. The entry fee is \$100. Hit your own 47 core, 12-inch ball with a five home run limit. Contact Rob Collins for details on both events.

Brooks Club

Bldg. 204, 536-3782

Movie Nights are back at the Brooks Club. First-run movies are shown Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Call the Club staff or stop by Bldg. 204 for details and a movie listing. Services comment cards are located in each Services facility, or on the Services Web page at www.brooks.af.mil. Fill out a comment card during the month of March and be one of five lucky winners of a Billie Burger at the Boar's Head Pub. If you haven't tried the Billie Burger at the Boar's Head Pub in the Brooks Club you're missing out on a mouth-watering delight. Billie's Burger consists of one-half pound charbroiled ground beef, topped with a special sauce, cheddar cheese, sautéed mushrooms, onions and black olives on a toasted bun. The burger is served with fries and a pickle, for only \$6.

Outdoor Recreation

Bldg. 1154, 536-2881

Rent an indoor storage unit and clear up the clutter around the house or office. Thirty-five units are conveniently located on the flight line across from Outdoor Recreation. Rent a 6' x 12' unit for \$35 or a 12' x 12' unit for \$60. Call for details or to reserve a unit.

With warm weather approaching many of our thoughts turn to gardening. There are 56 numbered garden plots located on the perimeter road along the flight line. Plots can be rented for \$10 per year.

Family Child Care

Bldg. 510, 536-2041

The Family Child Care Program has seven affiliated licensed providers with vacancies for children ages 6 six weeks to 12 years. A list of providers is available at the office, the Child Development Center, in Bldg. 502, or the Youth Center, Bldg. 470. Assistance is available at the Family Child Care Office Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Free Child Care

If you are arriving at or departing Brooks and need assistance with childcare, 20 free hours of child care is available through licensed affiliated providers on base. They will provide 20 hours of free care for each child of all military members, regardless of rank. Forms and eligibility certificates can be picked up at the Family Support Center. Contact Jeanie Smith with questions about affiliated providers or for information on becoming a provider.

Base Library

Bldg. 705, 536-2634

Children's Story hour is scheduled for March 16 at 2:30 p.m. at the library. Children 2-4 years of age are invited to come and listen to stories read by our staff.

Call the Base Library staff for information.



68th IOS 'ices' hoop title at the buzzer

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

An Andrew Harvey tip in of player-coach Reggie Smith's off-target shot at the buzzer catapulted the 68th Information Operations Squadron to its first base intramural basketball championship March 6 with a dramatic 38-36 win over the 311th Mission Support Group's I.C.E. squad.

More importantly, the victory established the 68th as the newest Brooks sports dynasty since they also won the base flag football crown in the same season.

"AFIERA who?" rhetorically asked the 68th IOS player-coach, referring to the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis sports franchise that previously won many base titles by upsetting league champs during post-season tournaments.

It is, however, the 68th that now has demonstrated an AFIERA-like capability to overcome great odds and win the big games.

"We were seeded second in the tournament, but we had lost most of our (regular) players to deployments," said Smith. Missing from the 68th post-season roster were four starters: forwards Paul Robinson and Buddy Love, guard Nassar Brisker and center Desmond Fahie, the team's best player.

As a consequence, Smith activated himself as a player and rallied the remaining talent for the playoffs. They had the daunting task of battling the heavily favored I.C.E. (Intensity, Con-



Photo by Rudy Purificato

The opening tip-off of the second base championship title game pitted the 68th Information Operations Squadron, in white, against the 311th Mission Support Group's I.C.E. squad.

centration and Execution), the regular season league champs, and the explosive offense of the 311th Security Forces Squadron led by scoring stars Colby Benjamin and Slim Bailey.

The 68th relied on its deceptively effective "walk the ball up the court," slow-paced offense to win the championship.

"We have to keep the score down and play our slow game to win," said Smith. They did just that during their first two playoff games, beating the 311th Medical Squadron 34-26 and SFS 36-32.

Then they ran into the tournament's juggernaut I.C.E., which had recovered from its opening round 63-55 loss to SFS. I.C.E. earned its way to the championship game by beating MDS 66-46 and surviving a triple overtime slugfest against SFS 79-74. How-

ever, with one tournament loss, I.C.E. had to beat the 68th twice in back-to-back games to earn the base crown.

The 68th was no match for I.C.E.'s run-and-gun offense in the first contest. I.C.E. guard James Turner led all scorers with a blistering 21-point performance, highlighted by his devastating shots from the three-point range.

Determined to force a second game, I.C.E. opened up a 30-8 lead by the closing minutes of the first half, eventually winning the contest in a 52-31 blowout.

Dozens of 68th fans appeared to be frozen in their seats after witnessing their team's stunning first game loss. They apparently were suffering a collective angst, best reflected in the lyrics to Carole King's classic song: "anticipation, it's making me wait, it's

making me hesitate."

"We played our worst in the first game," admits Smith, adding, "But we played 'our' game in the second."

The 68th effectively took control of the second game by setting the tempo, riding the slower pace to a 20-16 half-time lead. They went on an 11-0 run to start the second half to take what everyone thought was a commanding lead. By the time I.C.E. scored its first points at 12:25 of the second half, the game and the championship seemed to be slipping away from coach Carl Lewis's squad.

"I attempted to change the tempo of the game," admits I.C.E.'s star point guard Robert Garcia whose 10-point second half performance helped his team get back in the game. The shift in the momentum momentarily unsettled the 68th.

"We lost our composure with a couple of technicals. It's a testament to their talent, especially Garcia, that they came back," Smith said.

With about a minute left in the contest, I.C.E.'s David King tied the game at 36-36. The championship came down to one last play as the 68th deliberately ran out the clock. As the last second ticked, Smith launched his shot from the corner. "It was a three-point jumper that missed, but they bailed me out," Smith said.

"We shouldn't have made it that close," lamented Lewis, whose squad's valiant efforts were not sufficient enough to capture their first base hoop title. "Close, but no cigar. We'll be back again next year," said Lewis, knowing that one of his major offensive weapons won't be around to help the team. Garcia, the 2003 Air Force Materiel Command tourney Most Valuable Player, ends his brilliant Air Force basketball career when he separates in May.

Volleyball coach hopes to make 'veterans' of new team

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The ancient Chinese proverb "a journey of 10,000 miles begins with but one step" may become the Brooks women's varsity volleyball squad's mantra during what could become an uphill hike on the road to the Air Force Materiel Command championship tournament.

"We have one month to prepare for the tournament. It's going to be tough this year," said the always cautiously optimistic Jose Murillo, in his fourth year as the varsity women's team coach.

With the AFMC tourney set for April 18-24 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, the Brooks squad has several major obstacles to overcome before they are ready to compete against the rest of the command.

Last year, Murillo's squad overcame many obstacles to gain some respect at the AFMC tourney when they nearly upset the eventual champion Eglin AFB, Fla.

Nevertheless, the experience that last year's Brooks team gained while losing all of its AFMC tourney games has evaporated this year.

"We have only one returning player, Melanie Kauo, an outside hitter who was among the seven players from last year's team," Murillo said.

So far, seven players have joined this year's squad that was formed in February. These players are all that remain from a list of 22 women who signed up for the team earlier this year. According to Murillo, nearly every eligible player on that list has since deployed.

"It's hard for us as a base to have a team because of the limited talent pool," said Murillo.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Coach Jose Murillo holds court during a practice session with the Brooks varsity women's volleyball team.

Compounding this endemic problem is the ever-increasing operational tempo that is having a significant impact on player recruitment.

Besides deployments, available players may not get the intramural playing time they'll need to gain experience. The potential exists for the intramural volleyball season to be canceled this year due to insufficient participation.

"This is the toughest year I have had as (varsity) coach. In previous years, I've had two to three players with experience. This year, I have one," Murillo said.

The veteran coach has a knack for getting the most out of the players he has had to work with. Two years ago, Murillo led a combined Brooks-Kelly team to the base's best performance at the AFMC tourney as runners-up.

The only expectations that Murillo has for this year hinges on his hope of recruiting players with some experience.

Active duty women who are interested in trying out for the team have until the end of March to contact Murillo at 536-3691 or the fitness center at 536-2188 or 536-5968.

Registration open for 2003 USAF marathon

By Susan Murphy

Aeronautical Systems Center Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFPN) — Registration is under way for the 2003 U.S. Air Force Marathon scheduled for Sept. 20 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Runner categories have changed slightly from past years. A 5K fun run and a 1/2 marathon have been added. There will no longer be a marathon team category. The marathon, four-person Ekiden-style relay team and wheelchair categories remain unchanged.

The Air Force Marathon, traditionally held the third Saturday of September, is open to all levels of marathoners, civilians and military, from all around the world. More than 3,200 runners participated in the marathon representing nearly every state and six countries.

The first U.S. Air Force Marathon was held at Wright-Patterson AFB Sept. 20, 1997, to coincide with the Air Force's 50th anniversary. U.S.A. Track and Field, the governing body of long-distance running in the United States, certified the course in 1997. Air Force Marathon officials asked for certification in order to assure participants the course is exactly 26 miles, 385 yards.

Runners will receive a uniquely designed T-shirt and patch. Participants who finish the marathon within the eight-hour time limit will receive a medallion.

Reduced fees for early registration are available until June 30. Registration deadline is Sept. 4.

To register, or for more information, visit the marathon Web site at <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil>, or call the marathon office at (937) 257-4350 or (800) 467-1823.